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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To establish and strengthen projects that defray the cost of related instruction associated with pre-apprenticeship and qualified apprenticeship programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. DELAURO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To establish and strengthen projects that defray the cost of related instruction associated with pre-apprenticeship and qualified apprenticeship programs, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “American Apprentice-
5 ship Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PRE-APPRENTICESHIP AND QUALIFIED APPREN-**
2 **TICESHIP PROGRAMS.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

4 (1) QUALIFIED APPRENTICESHIP.—The term
5 “qualified apprenticeship”, used with respect to a
6 program, means an apprenticeship program that
7 is—

8 (A) registered under the Act of August 16,
9 1937 (commonly known as the “National Ap-
10 prenticeship Act”; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663;
11 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.); and

12 (B) concentrated in an emerging, in-de-
13 mand industry.

14 (2) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITU-
15 TION.—The term “postsecondary educational institu-
16 tion” means an institution of higher education, as
17 defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act
18 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

19 (3) PRE-APPRENTICESHIP.—The term “pre-ap-
20 prenticeship”, used with respect to a program,
21 means an initiative or set of strategies that—

22 (A) is designed to prepare individuals to
23 enter and succeed in a qualified apprenticeship
24 program;

25 (B) is carried out by a sponsor described
26 in paragraph (6)(B) that has a documented

1 partnership with one or more sponsors of quali-
2 fied apprenticeship programs; and

3 (C) includes each of the following:

4 (i) Training (including a curriculum
5 for the training), aligned with industry
6 standards related to apprenticeships in a
7 qualified apprenticeship program, and re-
8 viewed and approved annually by sponsors
9 of such apprenticeships within the docu-
10 mented partnership, that will prepare indi-
11 viduals by teaching the skills and com-
12 petencies needed to enter one or more
13 qualified apprenticeship programs.

14 (ii) Provision of hands-on training and
15 theoretical education to individuals that—

16 (I) is carried out in a manner
17 that includes proper observation of su-
18 pervision and safety protocols; and

19 (II) is carried out in a manner
20 that does not displace a paid em-
21 ployee.

22 (iii) A formal agreement with a spon-
23 sor of a qualified apprenticeship program
24 that would enable participants who suc-
25 cessfully complete the pre-apprenticeship

1 program to enter directly into the qualified
2 apprenticeship program (if a place in the
3 program is available and if the participant
4 meets the qualifications of the qualified ap-
5 prenticeship program), and includes agree-
6 ments concerning earning credit recognized
7 by a postsecondary educational institution
8 for skills and competencies acquired during
9 the pre-apprenticeship program.

10 (4) RELATED INSTRUCTION.—The term “re-
11 lated instruction” means an organized and system-
12 atic form of instruction designed to provide an ap-
13 prentice with the knowledge of the theoretical and
14 technical subjects related to the occupation of the
15 apprentice or the instruction needed to prepare an
16 individual to enter and succeed in an qualified ap-
17 prenticeship program.

18 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
19 the Secretary of Labor.

20 (6) SPONSOR.—The term “sponsor” means—

21 (A) with respect to a qualified apprentice-
22 ship program, an employer, joint labor-manage-
23 ment partnership, trade association, profes-
24 sional association, labor organization, or other

1 entity, that administers the qualified appren-
2 ticeship program; and

3 (B) with respect to a pre-apprenticeship
4 program, a local educational agency, a sec-
5 ondary school, an area career and technical
6 education school, a State board, a local board,
7 or a community-based organization, with re-
8 sponsibility for the pre-apprenticeship program.

9 (7) WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPOR-
10 TUNITY ACT DEFINITIONS.—The terms “area career
11 and technical education school”, “community-based
12 organization”, “individual with a barrier to employ-
13 ment”, “local board”, “local educational agency”,
14 “secondary school”, and “State board” have the
15 meanings given the terms in section 3 of the Work-
16 force Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
17 3102).

18 (b) GRANTS FOR TUITION ASSISTANCE.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make
20 grants to States on a competitive basis to assist the
21 States in, and pay for the Federal share of the cost
22 of, carrying out projects that defray the cost of re-
23 lated instruction associated with pre-apprenticeship
24 and qualified apprenticeship programs.

1 (2) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a
2 grant under this subsection, a State shall submit an
3 application to the Secretary for such a project at
4 such time, in such manner, and containing a stra-
5 tegic plan that contains such information as the Sec-
6 retary may require, including—

7 (A) information identifying the State agen-
8 cy (referred to in this Act as the “State enti-
9 ty”) that will administer the grant as deter-
10 mined by the Governor of the State;

11 (B) a description of strategies that the
12 State entity will use to collaborate with key in-
13 dustry representatives, State agencies, postsec-
14 ondary educational institutions, labor-manage-
15 ment entities, and other relevant partners to
16 launch or expand pre-apprenticeships, and ap-
17 prenticeships in qualified apprenticeship pro-
18 grams;

19 (C) a description of how the State entity
20 will—

21 (i) coordinate activities carried out
22 under this subsection with activities car-
23 ried out under the Carl D. Perkins Career
24 and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20
25 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.) and the Workforce

1 Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
2 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) to support pre-ap-
3 prenticeships, and apprenticeships in quali-
4 fied apprenticeship programs;

5 (ii) leverage funds provided under the
6 Acts specified in clause (i) to support pre-
7 apprenticeships, and apprenticeships in
8 qualified apprenticeship programs; and

9 (iii) utilize, and encourage individual
10 participants in programs supported under
11 this subsection to utilize, available Federal
12 and State financial assistance, including
13 assistance available under the Workforce
14 Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
15 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.), education assistance
16 benefits available to veterans, and Federal
17 Pell Grants available under section 401 of
18 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
19 U.S.C. 1070a), prior to using assistance
20 made available under this Act;

21 (D) a description of strategies to elevate
22 apprenticeships in qualified apprenticeship pro-
23 grams as a workforce solution in both tradi-
24 tional and nontraditional industries, such as in-
25 formation technology, health care, advanced

1 manufacturing, construction trades, transpor-
2 tation, and other industries determined to be
3 high-demand by the State board for the State;

4 (E) a description of activities that the
5 State entity will carry out to build awareness
6 about the economic potential of apprenticeships
7 in qualified apprenticeship programs;

8 (F) a description that outlines how the
9 State entity will increase opportunities for pre-
10 apprenticeships, and apprenticeships in quali-
11 fied apprenticeship programs, among members
12 of minority groups, youth, individuals with dis-
13 abilities, veterans, and individuals with barriers
14 to employment;

15 (G) a description of—

16 (i) how the State entity will ensure
17 that the qualified apprenticeship program
18 meets certain performance measures and
19 quality standards, including that the quali-
20 fied apprenticeship program has been in
21 existence for not fewer than 6 months
22 prior to the application date;

23 (ii) the targeted outreach strategies
24 that the State entity will use for popu-

1 lations previously underserved through ap-
2 prenticeships; and

3 (iii) any State performance measures
4 and goals that the State will use, at the
5 election of the State, to measure the effec-
6 tiveness of the project; and

7 (H) in the case of a State that has already
8 received a grant under this subsection for a
9 project, information indicating that the State
10 met the performance measures with respect to
11 the project.

12 (3) APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS.—A joint
13 team of employees from the Department of Labor
14 and the Department of Education shall—

15 (A) review such an application; and

16 (B) make recommendations to the Sec-
17 retary regarding approval of the application.

18 (4) USE OF FUNDS.—A State that receives a
19 grant under this subsection shall use the funds made
20 available through the grant to defray any of the fol-
21 lowing costs of related instruction:

22 (A) Tuition and fees.

23 (B) Cost of textbooks, equipment, cur-
24 riculum development, and other required edu-
25 cational materials.

1 (C) Costs of any other item or service de-
2 termined by the State to be necessary.

3 (5) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The State may
4 use not more than 10 percent of the grant funds for
5 administrative costs relating to carrying out the
6 project described in paragraph (1).

7 (6) PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION.—The
8 Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of
9 Education, shall—

10 (A) establish performance measures based
11 on indicators set by the Administrator of the
12 Office of Apprenticeship of the Department of
13 Labor; and

14 (B) establish an evaluation system aligned
15 with the performance measures, and reporting
16 requirements for the program carried out under
17 this subsection.

18 (c) FEDERAL SHARE.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of the
20 cost described in subsection (b)(1) shall be not less
21 than 20 percent and not more than 50 percent.

22 (2) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The State may
23 make the non-Federal share available—

24 (A) in cash or in-kind, fairly evaluated, in-
25 cluding plant, equipment, or services; and

1 (B) directly or through donations from
2 public or private entities.

3 (d) REPORT.—The Secretary shall prepare and sub-
4 mit to Congress, not later than September 30, 2027, a
5 report—

6 (1) detailing the results of the evaluation de-
7 scribed in subsection (b)(6)(B); and

8 (2) analyzing the extent to which States have
9 used grant funds effectively under this section.

10 (e) POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES.—It is the pol-
11 icy of the United States that funds made available under
12 this section should be used to supplement and not sup-
13 plant other funds available under the Workforce Innova-
14 tion and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) and
15 other Federal and State funds available to the State to
16 support workforce development programs.

17 **SEC. 3. IDENTIFYING IN-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS.**

18 The Secretary shall—

19 (1) identify in-demand occupations nationally
20 and regionally that lack the use of apprenticeships;

21 (2) analyze the use of the qualified apprentice-
22 ship program model in those identified in-demand
23 occupations; and

1 (3) prepare and submit to States and Congress
2 a report that contains the analysis described in para-
3 graph (2).

4 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
6 this Act \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through
7 2028.